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Attorney Docket No. 1907.03

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: WETTSTEIN *et al.* )  
Serial No.: US 09/972,035 )  
Filed: October 4, 2001 )  
Title: Tsg101-GAGp6 INTERACTION )  
AND USE THEREOF )

Group Art Unit: 1653

Examiner: Myron Hill

February 27, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Please amend Claim 26 as follows:

26. (Amended) A protein complex having a first polypeptide covalently linked to a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide is Tsg101 or a homologue or fragment thereof, and wherein said second polypeptide is HIV GAG or a homologue or fragment thereof.

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed January 27, 2003, Applicants provisionally elect Group I (Claims 1-23, and 44-50) with traverse.

The Restriction Requirement divides the claims as filed into 9 groups as indicated in pages 2-3 of the Action. It is noted that Applicants' claimed invention is based on the discovery of the interaction between Tsg101 and viral GAG proteins and their function in viral budding. The interaction can lead to the formation of protein complexes, which can be used in screening assays for selecting modulators of the interaction. Thus, regardless of whether the different groups of claims set forth in the Restriction Requirement are independently patentable over each other, if the protein complexes in Group I are not in prior art, the claims in the other groups naturally would not be in prior art either.

Thus, a search for Group I would suffice for the other Groups. Applicants respectfully submit that the same search(es) would apply to all groups of claims, and no